
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



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CYBERSECURITY BILL PASSES HOUSE

New Law to Secure Nation's "Digital Backbone" Contains Key Provision by Honda, Baird

Washington, D.C.— The House of Representatives today overwhelmingly approved bipartisan legislation aimed at improving the Nation's cyber security. The Cyber Security Research and Development Act (H.R. 3394), a measure authored in part by Science Committee member, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose), today passed the House on a vote of 400 to 12.

"Defending our nation against terrorist attacks means safeguarding not only airplanes and people— but sensitive data and networks as well," said Mike Honda (D-CA). **"The Cyber Security Research and Development Act addresses the critical shortage of world-class cyber security researchers needed to secure the digital backbone of our economy and national security apparatus while enabling the government, academia and industry to better integrate their research efforts."**

"In today's world, security has to mean more than locking doors and installing metal detectors. Our economy relies on a vast information infrastructure that is woefully under protected. This bill puts the best and the brightest to work developing ways of making our computer networks impenetrable," said Rep. Brian Baird.

The Cyber Security Act authorizes \$880 million over five years for new programs, to ensure that the U.S. is better prepared to prevent and combat terrorist attacks on private and government computers. The bill would create new cyber security research centers, undergraduate program grants, community college grants and fellowships through the National Science Foundation (NSF). One provision of the Cyber Security Act, introduced by Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA) and Honda provides that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will create new program grants for partnerships between academia and industry, new junior research positions, and a new program to encourage senior researchers in other fields to work on computer security to help make up for the critical shortage of trained cyber security personnel in the U.S. workforce. The House Science Committee is currently working with the Senate to develop a companion measure.

In recent weeks, leading high-tech trade associations and research institutions have endorsed the legislation, including: Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America, Association for Computing Machinery, Business Software Alliance, Computing Research Association, Computing Technology Industry Association, EDUCAUSE, Information Technology Association of America, Information Technology Industry Council, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Internet2, National Association of Manufacturers, and TechNet.